



File Code: 3410 (NA-09-09)
Date: October 13, 2009

Clyde Thompson, Forest Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest
USDA Building
200 Sycamore Street
Elkins, WV 26241-3962

Dear Mr. Thompson:

On June 30, 2009, Rod Whiteman, and Dan Snider of this office along with Lauren Miles from the Allegheny National Forest conducted an aerial detection survey on the Monongahela National Forest. The purpose of this survey was to detect and “sketchmap” the location and intensity of areas affected by forest insects, diseases and weather related events since last year’s aerial survey. Parallel flight lines spaced approximately 5 miles apart were flown over the Forest (Figure 1).

This year, gypsy moth caterpillars noticeably defoliated 4,243 acres of Forest Service lands. Approximately, 2,806 acres of light defoliation (0-50%) and 1,437 acres of heavy defoliation (51-100%) were detected. A review of last years aerial survey results show that approximately 308 acres of forest lands defoliated in 2008 were again defoliated in 2009. BBD mortality and/or decline impacted approximately 2,401 acres of Forest Service lands. HWA decline/mortality was also detected across 5,670 acres. Leaf diseases (anthracnose) caused 3, 660 acres of discoloration across the forest.

District Rangers and other field-going personnel have the primary responsibility for on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity (such as an unusually high number of moths present in the forest in early spring, which may be a prelude to a defoliation event by native defoliators), defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office.

I personally would also like to extend my appreciation to Cameron Crisp for his valuable assistance in this survey. If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey or gypsy moth control, please contact Rod Whiteman (304) 285-1555 or Rick Turcotte at (304) 285-1544.

Sincerely,

ROBERT G. LUECKEL
Field Representative
Morgantown Field Office



Enclosures

Cc: District Ranger, Cheat RD
District Ranger, Gauley RD
District Ranger, Greenbrier RD
District Ranger, Greenbrier RD
District Ranger, Marlinton & White Sulphur Springs RDs
District Ranger, Potomac RD
Glen Juergens, Silviculturist
Butch Sayers, WVDA

DS/RMT/AS

17,258 acres total mapped in 2009

